

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting
(subject to revision)

October 7, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson
Beverly Bobroske
Lynne Farrell
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Hannah Klein
Hunter Kodama
Patricia Luke
Linda McMahon
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio (arrived at 11:15 a.m.)
Kathleen O'Connor
Jay Voss

Absent: None

II. Public Participation

Marilyn White from the Connecticut Reading Association spoke about the certification requirements of administrators. Ms. White asked the Board to adopt the regulations for administrator certification including the recommendations from the International Reading Association. Ms. White's written testimony can be found in the official file of this meeting.

Chris Hankins, Legal Counsel for the Connecticut Education Association, spoke about the request for declaratory ruling by the Guilford Education Association. Mr. Hankins asked the Board to rule in favor of the request.

Mr. Taylor moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board consider Item XI.A., Report of the State Advisory Council on Special Education, out of order.

Motion carried unanimously.

XI.A. Report of the State Advisory Council on Special Education

Anne-Louise Thompson, Chief of the Bureau of Special Education, and Brenda Sullivan, Chair of the State Advisory Council, reviewed the recommendations in the 2009 Annual Report of the Connecticut State Advisory Council on Special Education. Discussed ensued.

Ms. Sullivan asked the Board for its support of the Council's proposed legislation to the General Assembly concerning the alignment of the Council's membership with IDEA. Commissioner McQuillan replied that we would support legislation regarding proposed changes to the Council's membership.

III. Executive Session

None.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of September 2, 2009, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approve the minutes, as corrected, of the September 2, 2009, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Taylor, Finneran, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, McMahon, O'Connor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Bobroske
	Absent:	0

Motion carried.

V.A. Approval of Connecticut's Membership in the New England Secondary School Consortium

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board supports the Connecticut State Department of Education's membership in the New England Secondary School Consortium, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Taylor, Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, McMahon, O'Connor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor distributed a written report which is in the official file of this meeting and includes the following:

- Information concerning 2009-10 NASBE Study Groups.
- Hunter Kodama and Hannah Klein attended the State Student Advisory Council on Education meeting on September 29, 2009. Mr. Kodama and Ms. Klein commented on

what the Council will focus on in the coming year. (Notes from the SSACE meeting were also provided.)

- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten attended a conference sponsored by the U.S. Army in Fort Jackson in September.
- Commissioner McQuillan, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Commissioner Meotti, Mr. Coleman and Mr. Taylor attended the annual back-to-school meeting with CABA's Board of Directors on September 23, 2009.
- Board members are invited to attend the annual CABA/CAPSS convention, to be held November 20-21, 2009, at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. The "Dialogue with the State Board of Education" is scheduled to take place on Friday, November 20, from 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.
- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten will participate on the breakfast panel at the October 19, 2009, Summit on Dropout Prevention; Ms. Finneran will attend the summit.
- All Board members are invited to the New England Conference on Multicultural Education on October 21, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to Noon, at the University of Hartford. (A conference brochure was provided.)
- A copy of the annual report from each RESC was provided to all Board members.
- All Board members received an invitation to the annual Teacher of the Year Ceremony, to be held October 29, 2009, at Central Connecticut State University, Welte Hall, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner McQuillan focused on two major topics: The Department's Race to the Top Application and the Prospectus for the State Consortium on Board Examinations. Commissioner McQuillan showed a PowerPoint presentation regarding Race to the Top (RTTT). A copy of the presentation can be found in the official file of this meeting. Discussion followed.

Commissioner McQuillan provided the Board with a copy of the Board Exams Prospectus. This is a proposal to participate in the pilot. There is a Memorandum of Understanding to invite 10-15 districts to pilot the program and test its usefulness. Commissioner McQuillan stated that this proposal takes the secondary school reform one more step. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Meotti arrived 11:15 a.m.

Commissioner McQuillan also distributed a written report which is in the official file of this meeting and includes information on the following:

- Comprehensive Plan Priorities: 1) Early Childhood Education; 2) Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps; 3) Secondary School Reform
- Sheff Comprehensive Management Plan

- Internal Operations
- Statewide Meetings
- Race to the Top Meetings

VIII.A. Financial Matters – State and Federal Funding

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer for the Department, provided a summary of fiscal year 2009-10 state and federal funding. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten requested a report showing retirements represented in salaries, vacancies, refills, Department positions, and J.M. Wright staff.

There was additional discussion regarding the use of ARRA funds and, specifically, a recent newspaper article about Connecticut's application for State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF). Commissioner McQuillan stated that the State's SFSF application was indeed approved by the U.S. Department of Education with commendations and disagrees with the interpretation of the Office of the Inspector General that SFSF funds are not being used appropriately.

IX. Consent Agenda – Mr. Taylor requested that agenda item IX.B., Request for Declaratory Ruling by Guilford Education Association, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

IX.A. Adoption of Position Statement on Public School Choice

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board adopts the Position Statement on Public School Choice, dated October 7, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Taylor, Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, McMahon, O'Connor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.B. Request for Declaratory Ruling by Guilford Education Association

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. McMahon seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 4-176 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 10-4-21 of the Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies, declines to rule on the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by the Guilford Education Association concerning whether the provision under Section 10-153d(b) that requires local boards of education to file contracts with the town applies to agreements made in mid-term negotiations under Section 10-153f(e), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Taylor, Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, McMahon, O'Connor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Connecticut Technical High School System

Patricia Ciccone, Interim Superintendent, presented a report on the October 1 enrollments at the technical high schools, and the immediate issues being addressed as a result of the suspension of J.M. Wright Technical High School, including building security, utilities, and inventory.

The meeting recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:49 p.m.

XI.C. Legislative Proposals

Jennifer Widness, Attorney in the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, addressed the Board and discussed legislative proposals for 2010. Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez, Bureau Chief Mark Linabury, and Bureau Chief Nancy Pugliese joined Ms. Widness.

Ms. Widness summarized the legislative proposals described in the Commissioner's October 7, 2009, memorandum to the Board. Discussion followed.

The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting to further explore the issues of (1) district evaluation of teachers and administrators, and (2) charter schools.

XI.B. Demonstration of Data Warehouse Tools and Reports

Barbara Beaudin, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Assessment and Accountability, and Sarah Ellsworth, Chief of the Bureau of Data Collection, Research and Evaluation, provided the Board with an overview of the Data Warehouse. Mark Vocca, Consultant in the Division of Finance and Internal Operations, presented a PowerPoint demonstration.

XI.D. Draft Position Statement on School, Family and Community Partnerships

Paul Flinter, Chief of the Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, and Judy Carson, Education Consultant in the same bureau, described the position statement.

Ms. Finneran noted that when the statement is brought back for a vote, the Board will be voting on only the policy statement. A suggestion was made to change item 2 on page 2 of the statement. Delete "and honor" in the first sentence, and add a separate sentence addressing that "We honor all families".

XI.E. Draft Position Statement on Measuring Success

Barbara Beaudin, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Assessment and Accountability, presented the draft position statement and summarized the changes made from the previous statement. A suggestion was made to change language on the top of page 2 to read "... collects statewide, district and school level data ...".

XII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters – Mrs. Luke stated that the Committee will meet sometime between now and December. She also reported that she will be meeting with the State Auditors of Public Accounts.
- B. Legislation and Bylaws – Mrs. Hopkins-Staten summarized the Committee's discussion earlier in this meeting.
- C. Policy Development – Ms. Finneran cancelled today's afternoon meeting due to time constraints.
- D. Connecticut Technical High Schools – Mrs. Bobroske said a meeting is scheduled for October 14. A search will be conducted for the new Superintendent, and it is hoped that a decision can be made by January 2010.
- E. NASBE – Mr. Taylor asked Board members to review the information concerning 2010 study groups.
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability – The reports of three Districts in Need of Improvement are due this month and will be presented for approval by the Board in November.
- G. Ad Hoc Committee for Educator Certification – Commissioner McQuillan stated that the Committee will meet for two more months to discuss certain aspects of the regulations. Draft regulations should be presented at the November meeting.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary